COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-5.   (CANCELLED)

6.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A recombinant plasmid pBUN276 on deposit with the American Type Culture Collection as accession number PTA-8190.

7.-10. (CANCELLED)

11.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A transformed microorganism comprising the plasmid of claim 6.

12.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transformed microorganism of claim 11, wherein the microorganism is a naturally occurring or genetically modified mycobacterium strain selected from the group consisting of *M. smegmatis, M. tuberculosis, M. bovis, M. africanum, M. microti, M. leprae, M. avium, M. intracellular, M. paratuberculosis, M. ulcerans, M. marinum*, and any subspecies of said mycobacterium strains or genetic mycobacterium variants thereof.

13.-23. (CANCELLED)

24.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transformed microorganism of claim 11, wherein the transformed microorganism is recombinant mycobacterium strain GPM265.

25.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plasmid, comprising at least one genomic DNA fragment encoding *M. tuberculosis* Ddl, said at least one DNA fragment fused in frame with the first six codons of *M. bovis* BCG hsp60; gene, and operably linked to the promoter of the said *M. bovis* BCG hsp60 gene promoter, wherein said at least one DNA fragment is cloned into *E. coli –* mycobacterium shuttle vector pMV262.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for producing a recombinant microorganism comprising: transforming a mycobacterium with the plasmid of claim 6; 6, and selecting, in the presence of kanamycin, the recombinant microorganism.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 26, wherein the mycobacterium is transformed by electroporation.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of producing a microorganism with an altered level of D-alanine ligase expression relative to a corresponding non-transformed nontransformed microorganism, comprising transforming the microorganism with the plasmid of claim 6.